

## BSC 1010C: General Biology I

Downtown Campus

Course Syllabus and Classroom Policies

FALL 2021

|                         |  |                          |                                  |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>PROFESSOR:</b>       | Dr. Loui Taher   | <b>CRN:</b>              | 15806                            |
| <b>OFFICE LOCATION:</b> | Digital  | <b>CREDIT HOURS:</b>     | 4                                |
| <b>OFFICE PHONE:</b>    | (407) 582-7392   | <b>CLASS MEETINGS:</b>   | Tu & Th 7:00 -9:45 am (Room 367) |
| <b>EMAIL:</b>           | <a href="mailto:ltaher@mail.valenciacollege.edu">ltaher@mail.valenciacollege.edu</a> | <b>ENGAGEMENT HOURS:</b> | 11 am – 2 pm Mon to Thu          |

### COURSE OVERVIEW

#### Course Description

Welcome to the General Biology I (BSC1010C) course. This course, and the accompanying laboratory, provides an introduction to fundamental biological principles emphasizing common attributes of all living organisms. Unifying concepts include the chemical structure of living matter, structure and function of the cell, cell types, major metabolic functions, control systems, reproduction, genetics, evolution, and ecology. Prerequisite for advanced biology courses. Students should be prepared to complete college-level reading, writing, and mathematics assignments as part of this course. This course meets the General Education science requirements for graduation.

#### Prerequisites

Satisfactory completion of all mandated courses in reading, mathematics, English, and English for Academic Purposes

#### Major Topics/ Concepts/ Skills/ Issues

- Characteristics of living organisms
- Primary ecological and evolutionary organization of life
- The basic chemistry of living organisms
- Fundamentals of structure, function, and evolution of eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells
- Cellular metabolism and relationships to ecology and evolution
- Cellular asexual and sexual reproduction
- Genetic and evolutionary significance of sexual reproduction
- Fundamentals of gene organization and the processes and patterns of inheritance
- Structure and function of DNA encoding for polypeptide sequences at the molecular level of organisms
- Experimental biology, observational lab activities, and practice of the scientific method in a lab setting

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, the student will have met the following learning objectives:

1. Students will apply scientific reasoning to solve problems.
2. Students will explain Darwinian evolution.
3. Students will describe the chemical basis of life.
4. Students will describe cellular structures and functions.
5. Students will examine the structures and functions of cell membranes.
6. Students will explain the processes of energy transformation as they relate to cellular metabolism.
7. Students will evaluate the effects of cellular reproduction.
8. Students will examine eukaryotic inheritance.
9. Students will describe the molecular mechanism of gene expression and DNA replication.
10. Students will apply the scientific method to biological investigations.

#### Core Competencies of a Valencia Graduate

Valencia's Student Core Competencies are complex abilities that are considered the essential elements of a successful student. This course will help you develop and demonstrate the abilities to: (1) think clearly, critically, reflectively, and creatively; (2) communicate

with others verbally and in written form; (3) make reasoned value judgments and responsible commitments; and (4) act purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly. Our goal is to provide these global competencies in the context of application; this means that students will be required to understand problems and effectively communicate an appropriate solution.

## Canvas

The entirety of this course will take place online using Canvas. It is recommended that you review the tutorials before beginning this material, and set up your phone or e-mail to give alerts for Canvas (support 407-582-5600). To manage notifications by text, log into Canvas (<https://online.valenciacollege.edu/login/canvas>) and click on:

- Account
- Settings – Other Contact – Contact Method (right side of screen) – enter text information – Register SMS
- A text will go to your phone with a code to enter to confirm your number
- Notifications – select the notifications that you want and where the notification should go to

Canvas also has a mobile app! Download the app, click Find My School, search for Valencia College, and enter your Atlas login. Click “allow” to enable notifications.

## Required Course Materials/Textbooks

1. 9780137351824 – Campbell Biology, 12e Vol 1 Mastering code only w/e-text (18-month access)  
OR  
9780137351916 – Campbell Biology, 12e Vol 1 Package - Custom text + Mastering code w/e-text General
2. Biology I Laboratory Manual BSC 1010C. Graeme Lindbeck and Susan Matthews. Science Department. Valencia College
3. Webcam

PowerPoint slides comprising the course lecture notes will also be made available on Canvas and should be printed before each lecture, when appropriate, for use by the student.

## Educational Supplies

These supplies are not required but are strongly recommended. A student should own or have access to a current edition of a college-level dictionary and thesaurus. If you cannot obtain a copy, you should have access to a computer or smartphone with online capabilities; I can recommend a number of websites to you ([www.webster.com](http://www.webster.com), [www.wiktionary.org](http://www.wiktionary.org), or [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) are excellent starting points). You may also want to investigate online cloud-based storage sites, like Google Drive or Dropbox.

## CLASSROOM POLICIES

### Attendance Policy

1. Regular attendance in both lecture and lab is mandatory for satisfactory performance in this course. Your record of attendance and participation will be used as a criterion for assigning final grades in borderline cases (section Grades, #6).
2. Tardiness will not be tolerated. It is extremely disruptive to arrive late. Arriving late, leaving the class early, or coming back late after a break are considered tardiness. Make adjustments to your personal schedule so that you consistently arrive on time for lectures and labs.
3. You are expected to be present in the class at scheduled and stay in the class to the end of lecture/lab session.
4. Before attending the class, students are expected to check Canvas for possible announcements regarding changes in the time frame of a class.
5. There are attendance points in this course. For each absence points will be deducted from the student's available attendance points.
6. On days attending the laboratory, failing to wear proper shoes and/or lab coat results in losing attendance point. Not wearing proper shoes would be considered one full absence and the student is not allowed to stay in the lab.

### “No Show” Status for Classes

If you do not log into the course and complete the academically required attendance **assignment in Canvas during the first week of the semester**, you will be withdrawn from the class as a “No Show.” Participation is required for online classes; students who are not actively participating in an online class and/or do not submit the required attendance activity or assignment by the scheduled due date must be withdrawn by the instructor at the end of the first week as a “No Show.” If you are withdrawn as a “No Show,” you will be financially responsible for the class and a final grade of “WN” will appear on your transcript for the course.

## **Class Participation**

Students are expected to actively participate in discussions and activities. This will affect your performance in this course (students who are actively involved in course material tend to be more successful). Be prepared to discuss all materials in each module: take notes while reading at home, complete all assigned tasks on the weekly schedule, and have at least one question or comment about assigned readings every module.

## **Proctored Exam Requirement**

You are **required to** [download and install the lockdown browser](#), to prevent opening any other browsers during the exam.

## **Online Protocol**

Students are expected to maintain proper decorum while online. Proper etiquette includes, but is not limited to, treating your fellow students with respect online, using appropriate language in all work submitted online, and acting the same way you would behave in a classroom – consider the digital classroom to be no different from the traditional classroom or professional workplace.

## **International Students (F-1 or J-1 Visa)**

Please be advised that withdrawal from this course due to attendance may result in the termination of your visa status if you fall below the full-time enrollment requirements of 12 credit hours. Consult the International Student Service office for more information.

## **Communication**

You can contact me by canvas message or email, and I usually respond in less than 24 hours on weekdays. Between 12pm and 2 pm on weekdays I usually respond within the same hour.

## EVALUATION AND GRADING

### Course Evaluation & Grading Scale

Grading Scale:

- A: 90% - 100%
- B: 80% - 89%
- C: 70% - 79%
- D: 60% - 69%
- F: below 60%

| Course Evaluation & Grading Scale   | POINT VALUES*                        | GRADE %      |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Attendance  | 200pts                               | 20%          |
| Chapters Quizzes and Homework   | 200pts                               | 20%          |
| Lab   | 100pts                               | 10%          |
| Assignments/Projects/Discussions  | 100pts                               | 10%          |
| Lecture Exams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Exam (Ch 1-5)</li><li>• Second Exam (Ch 6-10)</li><li>• Third Exam (Ch 11-14 &amp; 17)</li><li>• Final Exam (Cumulative)</li></ul> | 100pts<br>100pts<br>100pts<br>100pts | 40%          |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>  | <b>1000 POINTS</b>                   | <b>100%*</b> |

\* Available points, the number of tests and activities may be changed at the discretion of the professor. Announcement regarding the changes will be made in the class.

The sum of points earned throughout the course will determine a letter grade as follows:

### Exam/Quiz/Project/Late Work Make Up Policy

Please visit the **Tentative Course Schedule** page in the **Orientation** module. For assignments due dates check the modules on Canvas.

Make-up exams will be given in emergency situations, provided the instructor is notified within a reasonable time frame. Please note that missing an exam will have an adverse effect on your grade. Please also note that the final exam is required; missing the final exam will result in an automatic "0" on the final exam.

Homework and quizzes cannot be made up; if a student is absent, the student is responsible for determining required work, completing the assignment. If a student is absent on the day of a quiz, that student will receive a "0" for the quiz.

### Extra Credit Assignments

The availability of extra credit opportunities is at my discretion

## VALENCIA COLLEGE POLICIES & GENERAL INFORMATION

### Important Valencia Website Links

- College Calendar: <http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/>
- Important Dates & Deadlines: <https://valenciacollege.edu/academics/calendar/>
- College Catalog: <http://valenciacollege.edu/catalog/>
- Valencia Policy and Procedures: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/>
- FERPA: <http://valenciacollege.edu/ferpa/>

### Important Course and College Dates

- Aug. 23: Classes Begin
- Aug. 30 @ 11:59 p.m.: Drop/Refund Deadline
- Nov. 3 @ 11:59 p.m.: Withdrawal Deadline
- Dec. 12: Classes End

**NOTE:** Please visit the Course Calendar page in the Canvas Orientation module. You can also visit the following website for any changes to the current academic calendar year: <http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/>

### Withdrawal Policy

Please see the date above for the withdrawal deadline. During a first or second attempt in the same course at Valencia, if you withdraw or are withdrawn by the professor, you will receive a non-punitive grade of "W" (Withdrawn). You will not receive credit for the course, and the W will not be calculated in your grade point average; however, the enrollment will count in your total attempts in the specific course. **Students are not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline.** A student may be administratively withdrawn from the course due to violation of class attendance policy; if you are withdrawn administratively, you will receive a W. Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during the third or subsequent attempt to complete the course will be assigned a grade of F. Please note that withdrawal from a course may impact financial aid; it is strongly recommended a student consult with the professor, an adviser, and financial aid before withdrawing from the course.

### Student Code of Conduct in an Online Environment

Valencia College is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning, but the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the online environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of online learning for other students may be directed to Student Services. Violation of any classroom or Valencia rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current *Valencia Student Handbook*.

### Academic Honesty

Each student is required to follow Valencia policy regarding academic honesty. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the student's individual thoughts, research, and self-expression, unless the assignment specifically states "group project." Any act of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with Valencia policy as set forth in the Student Handbook and Catalog. At Valencia, we expect the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with policy 6Hx28: 8-11 upheld by the Vice President of Student Affairs (<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/>). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of taking another individual's writings or ideas and passing them off as your own. This includes directly copying even a small portion of the text, indirectly taking thoughts by paraphrasing ideas without correctly attributing to the source (meaning both with signal phrases and in-text parenthetical citations), using papers written in previous courses (self-plagiarism), and using another individual's research without the correct attribution. Any act of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failing grade on the assignment, no matter how small the infraction; to clarify, this means the assignment will receive no points. Additional action may be taken with the college's administrative offices. Do not endanger your academic career: If there is a severe issue, you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, or you feel dishonesty is your only solution, contact me immediately and we will discuss the matter.

Remember, once the assignment has been submitted, there is no distinction between unintentional plagiarism and intentional plagiarism – it's just intentional in my eyes. Students' work will be submitted through Canvas's plagiarism assessment tool.

### **Internet Research Statement**

Because of the variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of central control, and proliferation of commercial information on the free Internet, it is often hard to tell if information obtained online is reliable. Many sites contain research and information of high quality; however, unlike traditional print publications or library-based electronic resources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the Internet. There are an increasing number of sites containing information that may be incomplete, anonymously written, out-of-date, biased, fraudulent, or whose content may not be factual. Students should, therefore, use caution in use of the free Internet for their research needs. For academic topics that are addressed in scholarly literature, use of electronic databases or visiting the library may better meet your needs. However, each professor makes the final determination of what is, or is not, accepted as a valid source, so review the syllabus for specific guidelines from your professor.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with their professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. <http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/>

**Personal Policy:** If you require any special accommodations for the course, do not hesitate to let me know. You have my permission to tape record anything in the course; any additional accommodations must go through the Office for Students with Disabilities (see below).

**From the Office for Students with Disabilities:** *Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. All requests will be kept in strict confidence.*

### **Student Assistance Program**

Valencia College is interested in making sure all of our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help with issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management, as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home, or work. BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP) services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470. Free face-to-face counseling is also available.

### **Disclaimer**

The syllabus, assignments, and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.